Final examination

Be sure to write your name and that of your teaching assistant on all parts of the exam (this sheet, bluebooks, map) and put all exam materials inside your bluebooks when turning them in.

Please write in the space below the full title and full name of the author of the book you chose for the book-review assignment. In the following essays, if any part of the essay you choose is relevant to the book you read, make clear and explicit what it was that you learned from the book. (Obviously, if your book does not relate to the question, you need not mention it in your essays, but still provide the author and title here.)

Part I. Short question. Select one of the following for an essay of 45 minutes (25 points out of 100):

1. “Lenin and Mussolini, although ostensibly leaders of diametrically opposed movements, shared a remarkable number of beliefs and mental traits.” Comment critically. Include as many as possible of the following in your essay:

   a. elitism  
   b. opportunism  
   c. me ne frego!
   d. biennio rosso  
   e. What Is To Be Done?  
   f. class conflict
   g. anarchism  
   h. Duce  
   i. anti-Semitism
   j. nationalism  
   k. proletariat  
   l. Vozhd’

2. “It is the fate of all great thinkers to be vulgarized, simplified, and finally used in ways that those great thinkers—had they lived so long—would have been appalled to discover.” Compose an essay that considers this quotation in terms of the thought of Karl Marx and Charles Darwin—and the political movements that claimed to speak in their name.

Part II. Long question. Select one of the following for an essay of ninety minutes (50 points out of 100):

1. The following quotations reflect contrasting interpretations of Nazism and Communism. Compose an essay that evaluates them critically, indicating which you find most persuasive and why:

   Great Men: “The Holocaust is best understood as the result of the personality and will of one man, Adolf Hitler.” “Stalin’s sick suspiciousness and thirst for power are the ultimate explanation for events from 1928 to 1939; almost any other Bolshevik leader would have made different decisions.”

   Great Historical Forces: “The so-called Final Solution to the Jewish Question grew out of German history; Hitler only fulfilled the mandate of that history.”

   Totalitarianism: “Mass murder emerges from any totalitarian system, and indeed is central to its functioning; the key consideration is the concentration of absolute power and the lack of any effective opposition to it. If
Hitler and Stalin had not existed, other leaders would have emerged from the totalitarian system to fulfill its inexorable logic of terror and mass murder.”

Incorporate as many as possible of the following into your essay.

a. Lord Acton  
   b. Social Darwinism  
   c. Bukharin  
   d. Aryan and Semite  
   e. Kristallnacht  
   f. Mein Kampf  
   g. Richard Wagner  
   h. S.S.  
   i. Kirov assassination  
   j. Nuremberg Laws  
   k. Auschwitz  
   l. Purge Trials  
   m. kulak  
   n. kolkhoz  
   o. Cheka  
   p. dictatorship of the proletariat

2. “Appeasement, which has such negative connotations today, would have been a wonderful thing in the summer of 1914, allowing for a far happier evolution of European and world history.” In the light of this quotation, compare the origins of WW I and WW II, paying particular attention to issues of responsibility (whether of individuals or nation-states). Address as well the issue of the “inevitability” of these conflicts. It has been suggested that the lessons simplistically digested in history merely lead to new tragedies—for example, that the “lessons” learned about appeasement in the 1930s led to unnecessary tensions in the Cold War and indeed to the pointless tragedies of the Vietnam war. What is your opinion? Include as many as possible of the following in your essay. Be sure to include dates when appropriate.

   a. “blank check”  
   b. Wilhelm II  
   c. Rhineland remilitarization  
   d. Serbia  
   e. Munich Agreements  
   f. Anschluss  
   g. Schlieffen Plan  
   h. Nazi-Soviet Pact  
   i. Lebensraum  
   j. Verdun  
   k. Nicholas II  
   l. imperialism

*Part III. Geographical Identifications.* Fill in the appropriate names in the blanks provided; then place the number of the question inside or beside an appropriate shape (that is, a dot for city, a long balloon shape for a mountain chain or river, etc.) on the map provided. (25 points out of 100)

1. Delegates met in this city to draw up the peace settlement following World War I:

_______________________________________________________________________________

2. During World War II, the Nazis converted this Upper Silesian village into a massive slave labor and death camp (the most notorious of the camps):

_______________________________________________________________________________

3. The River Thames flows through this city:

_______________________________________________________________________________

4. A famous wall, dividing this city, was torn down in 1989:

_______________________________________________________________________________

5. Lenin lived in exile in this neutral country during WWI and immediately prior to revolution in Russia:

_______________________________________________________________________________
6. This Russian city’s name was changed three times in the twentieth century (one extra point if all names are correctly provided):

_______________________________________________________________________________

7. Vaclav Havel led a peaceful revolution in this East European Communist state in December 1989:

_______________________________________________________________________________

8. The so-called Anschluss added this country to the German Reich in March 1938:

_______________________________________________________________________________

9. Germany violated the neutrality of this country as part of the Schlieffen Plan:

_______________________________________________________________________________

10. Germany’s invasion of this country in September 1939 marked the beginning of WWII:

_______________________________________________________________________________

11. Transylvania was added to this country following the break-up of the Austro-Hungarian Empire:

_______________________________________________________________________________

12. Serbian nationalists assassinated Archduke Francis Ferdinand in this city:

_______________________________________________________________________________

13. Russia fought a war against France, Britain, and others on this peninsula, 1853-6:

_______________________________________________________________________________

14. Camillo Cavour was prime minister of this kingdom from 1852 to 1861:

_______________________________________________________________________________

15. A Communist regime, headed by Bela Kun, ruled this country briefly in 1919:

_______________________________________________________________________________

16. This river was seen by some French nationalists as a “natural frontier” between France and Germany:

_______________________________________________________________________________

17. Napoleon was briefly exiled to this small island off the Italian coast:

_______________________________________________________________________________

18 Civil War raged in this country from 1936 to 1939, threatening to pull the rest of Europe into it:

_______________________________________________________________________________

19. Principal French seaport on the Mediterranean:

_______________________________________________________________________________
20. One of the First World War’s bloodiest battles was fought around this fortress town in 1916:

______________________________________________________________________________

21. Capital city of the (West German) Bundesrepublik:

______________________________________________________________________________

22. In 1922, Mussolini staged a March on ----:

______________________________________________________________________________

23. The Munich Agreements delivered these territories to Germany:

______________________________________________________________________________

24. The Tiber River flows through this city:

______________________________________________________________________________

25. Hitler moved to this Bavarian city shortly before WWI:

______________________________________________________________________________

Extra Credit:

26. Neutral country in WW II, directly north of Germany:

______________________________________________________________________________

27. Island directly south of Corsica:

______________________________________________________________________________

28. Sea east of Italy:

______________________________________________________________________________

29. The Danube flows into this sea:

______________________________________________________________________________

30. The French occupied this industrial area (named after the river that flows through it) in 1923, in an effort to enforce the payment of reparations:

______________________________________________________________________________